

CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF
THE STATE
FIRE
MARSHAL

OSFM

"Chief 2 Chief"



MAY 2007

HOT ITEMS

**Wildfire Awareness
Week—May 7-13.**

**ICC Code Hearings:
Rochester, NY, May
21 - 26.**

**CAL FIRE "Fire Haz-
ard Zone" Hearings
in all counties: June-
August 2007.**

SFM Website:

[http://
osfm.fire.ca.gov](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov)

Changes and Plans at SFM/CAL FIRE

I am truly excited and challenged by the opportunity to serve as your State Fire Marshal. I spent most of my career in the Fire Protection part of CAL FIRE working in a variety of line assignments. Six years ago I came over to the Fire Prevention side of the fire service and find it as interesting and rewarding as the ops jobs. As I travel around the state, I speak with line firefighters who are now in prevention and the message is the same: "We need to get Ops more involved in Prevention, to better understand its value". One of my goals as SFM is to develop a concept I have been working with in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) arena. "Shaping the Battlefield" is borrowed from the military and carries a lesson for us—

connecting the worlds of prevention and operations means that what we do in planning and preparation translates directly into a safer, and more effective fire ground environment. My other top goals include:

1. Provide a voice for fire prevention and fire training to policy makers.
2. Prepare State Fire Training for the next 20 years of training leadership.
3. Rebuild the Arson-Bomb Program.
4. Build CAIRS/NFIRS into a relevant program for the CA fire service.

Please join us in putting prevention forward!

SFM Kate Dargan

Time to Train on the New Codes!!!

New Codes: At the end of January, we adopted the new CA Building and Fire Codes. The books will be available July 1st and a variety of organizations will provide training for the transition. This represents a **MAJOR** change in our code environment and every chief with a fire marshal bureau should be paying close attention to this change. There is a significant philosophical difference in how the codes are structured at the model code level and folks

should be looking at attending the Transition from the CA Building and Fire Codes. Uniform to International Codes class. Also important are the Fundamentals of the IBC/IFC classes, and finally this summer and fall, once the CA codes are published, the State Amendments CFC/CBC classes are critical. I can't emphasize enough that your bureau will be challenged with plan review and inspections and staff should attend these classes!

Action Item

Sign up for ICC Training Classes through the Cal Chiefs-Fire Prevention Officers website at www.firepreventionofficers.org. Also providing classes is CAL Building Officials (CALBO) and local ICC Chapters.

WUI Building Standards and Fire Hazard Maps

We are now completing the draft phase of California's updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. Final version maps for the public hearing phase will be released in early May and will be transmitted to 56 of California's 58 counties with SRA lands (Sutter and San Francisco have no SRA). With these maps, CDF Unit Chiefs or Contract County Chiefs will be conducting public hearings for the final map zone designation. Those public hearings will begin in June and stretch over the summer. We have queued up all the relevant info to a website through CAL

FIRE which will be ready May 15th. There you will be linked to mapping info, building standards, training classes, contacts, and public info. You can find it by going to the main Cal Fire website and clicking on "Living and Building in the WUI". Once the SRA maps are adopted and in place, we will begin the LRA adoptions, currently scheduled for a start in Jan 2008.



Arson-Bomb is BAAACCKK!

One of the goals we are continuing to pursue from Chief Grijalva's list is the rebuilding of the Arson Bomb Investigative (ABI) Unit. We heard a clear message that much of CA rural fire service depends on these experts for help with complex scene investigation, explosives issues, law enforcement liaison advice, and fireworks assistance. Supervising AB Investigator Greg Smith has been the lone champion for more than a year now and I am pleased to announce that he has several new partners with

more to come. Chief Dave Hillman is now the Chief of Engineering and Enforcement which includes the ABI section. This past few months, familiar faces have rejoined the team: Tony Guevara from Fireworks and Marge Yarbrough, from ABI, are now in full-time ABI positions with one vacancy left to fill. The Fireworks section in Fire Engineering has been shifted to Enforcement/ABI which brings all the players into daily contact with one another.

We are ramping up for another year of enforcement and interdiction ops around the state, including the fireworks pick-up and disposal process. SFM supports SB 839 to develop a fine-based funding system to staff and operate the mobile disposal units under construction. Support is welcome!

Staff and Events



Ken Vollenweider
Senior Deputy SFM

New Training Deputy SFM—Ken Vollenweider was recently hired as the Northern CA State Fire Training Deputy. Ken was the Deputy State Fire Marshal for Fire and Life Safety in the Northern Region prior to accepting this new challenge. He is a welcome addition to a very busy unit.



Kate Dargan takes the Oath of Office for State Fire Marshal from CAL FIRE Director Ruben Grijalva.